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correct thing will be an inlaid Cairo or Damascus table, with brass trayholding a Turkish coffee pot, or for serving ices, wine, etc. A Koran holder of carved teakwood will be among the appropriate furnishings.

The walls of the apartment will be covered with printed or painted tapestries of a Moorish pattern, and furnished with hanging or recessed cupboards and hung with Saracenic armor, the set usually comprising a steel helmet and shield, richly engraved in Persian characters, and such weapons as scimiters, swords or daggers.

The ceiling may be made of painted beams of wood or draped; the ceiling of the *leewa'n* being more ornamental than that of the rest of the apartment. The entrance to the apartment, as well as the entrance to the *leewa'n*, or divan, will be correctly draped with Bagdad or Broussa portières.

From the center of the ceiling will be suspended a Damascus lantern, such as are made for lighting the mosques, and in the various corners of the apartment, Persian mosque lanterns of dark brass or bronze, with delicately cut open work, fitted for gas or electric light, will be extremely decorative, giving a soft light when illuminated, that is suggestive of the Arabian nights.

#### A JAPANESE INTERIOR.

Since Japan has been opened to foreign intercourse, a deeper appreciation of her productions has been shown by the outside world, on account of the originality of design and fineness of execution displayed. The wonderful skill exhibited in Japanese decoration appeals to the educated and artistic taste, on account of its novelty, and a freedom of touch that prevents tame uniformity and sameness, so frequent in ordinary productions of pottery, metal, etc.

The manufactures of China very closely resemble those of Japan, and an apartment fitted up with the productions of one or other of these countries will form a most pleasing and inviting retreat. There is, for instance, Japanese fretwork, either in geometrical designs, or in panels representing storks, flowers, etc. This fretwork is very artistic, and can be used for decorations over doors, transoms, windows, or whole partitions may be made of it, the many designs permitting the exercise of much skill and ingenuity. The carved panels representing birds, dragons, etc., carved in an artistic manner from a single piece of wood, are unique examples of Japanese skill and patience.

The floor of a Japanese interior or tea room may have a Japanese or Chinese rug, and in the absence of orthodox Japanese furniture, sofas and chairs of Chinese manufacture, of carved ebony or teakwood, would not be incongruous. If such furnishings prove too costly, we can fall back upon the beautiful designs now made in bamboo furniture. A Hong Kong or Canton reclining chair is both extremely artistic and appropriate. Then there are stools of all kinds, fancy bamboo rockers, bamboo tables, with grass woven leaf. Cabinets can be had of Chinese design in teakwood or in Japanese lacquer, or in bamboo. Elegant portières are made entirely of beads, arranged in artistic designs, composed partly of bamboo, with handsome designs in medallions.

To give a catalogue of the vast variety of designs of Japanese goods in porcelains, metals, lacquers, leather, ivory, paper novelties of all kinds, exhibited in Vantine's emporium, would be beyond our powers. There are lacquered boxes for handkerchiefs, gloves and jewels, which are dainty creations. There are kakemonos and scrolls delicately painted in artistic designs, which are most effective wall decorations. There are parlor parasols with brightly colored ornamentation, used for ceilings, fire-places, etc., which are wonderfully decorative. In fancy lanterns, which are used by the Japanese to illuminate the water on an evening boat ride, or to illuminate theaters, tea houses and other resorts, or such as are used in the great temple feasts, unequalled for beauty, which can be had at absurdly low prices.

Then, again, their stock of Japanese screens is endless in its variety. In fancy porcelains, there are cuspidors, plaques, ash receivers, umbrella jars, baking dishes, bonbon boxes, cracker jars, and tableware of all kinds, decorated with the oddest and most unique conceptions, all of which will prove the most decorative adjuncts for such an apartment as we are describing. In table lamps beautiful designs are executed, and vases of Satsuma, Taizen and Tokio ware of the most varied

types, and are most beautiful as decorations for cabinets, shelves, nooks, and as articles of every day use. The possession of a carved teakwood cabinet, filled with beautiful porcelains, forms one of the choicest pleasures that the human mind can enjoy; the various pieces, decorated with glazes in bright gold, turquoise, light olive, coral, pea-green, orange yellow, peach, heavenly blue, pistache, blue and white, sang-de-lœuf, mustard yellow, lapis lazuli and other tints are a supreme delight.

In decorative textile fabrics there are Japanese kimonos or tea-gowns, either for wear or decoration, in cotton, linen, silk, crepe or satin. Ladies' gowns, men's coats and jackets, Chinese and Japanese silks, pongees, hand embroidered crepe curtains, satin portières, Shifu curtains, Kobe silk and satin table covers, embroidered silk shawls and drapery scarfs.

Amongst the articles of virtu provided by the art of the Orient, we have cloisonne enamels, which for beauty of workmanship and intricacy of design, are beyond comparison the finest in the world. Japanese swords are also amongst the most valuable of decorative art objects, and Japanese rock crystal balls are the special delight of connoisseurs.

For the decoration of halls nothing is more sumptuous than the modern decorative Japanese bronze toro, or lantern, decorated, perhaps, with tortoises and dragons. All these, and a thousand other objects for lovers of Oriental decorative art will certainly transform a modern house into an earthly paradise.

#### DECORATIVE NOTES.

THE very latest materials in articles for the toilet-table are glass or white porcelain encased in silver. The metal is put on to the completed bottle and is rather elaborately chased. It forms a casting of open work, so to speak, and through the interstices the bottle proper is seen. The effect is very brilliant and attractive, and as much work is entailed the price is high. The many continual changes of the sort are happily too expensive to be freely indulged in, so that from necessity, if not from choice, some things remain—a fact that goes far towards mitigating the ills of a slender purse.

THE Turkish decorations of all sorts are seen upon every side, and thoroughly good they are in their rightful place. Everything Oriental is suggestive of luxury and ease, but these Turkish goods are especially splendid in color and rich in stuffs. Saddle-bags, gowns and many similar objects, richly embroidered, are turned into hangings, draperies and cushion-covers, with singularly good results. The one fact alone that Turkish gilt never tarnishes is sufficient to recommend the embroideries, and any lover of color has but to inspect the display once to be convinced of its artistic worth.

THE fashion of suiting the color of the glass vase to that of the flower used is responsible for some lovely pictures. This season's importations show some tints that fairly rival the blossoms themselves, and there is no excuse for inharmonious colors on the tables of the wealthy, even though many of us must be content with less than perfection. The green glasses, however, are good enough to satisfy any woman's heart, and are in perfect accord with every flower that grows, so that if she has but a single set there is no need to despair. Any glass vase through which the stems show greatly enhances the effect of flowers, and the lovely tinted hues are as nearly perfect as can be. Still, if you possess pale green, or even only pure gold and white, your flowers can be trusted to do you credit and reflect glory upon themselves.

HUGE Japanese umbrellas are serviceable for many things, but one seen recently is so peculiarly striking as to deserve especial comment. It hangs from a hook in the ceiling of a small room in an artist's home and forms the entire ceiling. Beneath it is the tea table and all its paraphernalia, together with a bamboo settee and five chairs, all set upon a Japanese rug. The tea service is of fine Japanese ware and the tea itself comes from Japan; the entire room is complete, and one feels on entering that it is a veritable bit of the land of chrysanthemums.